

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 11-13, 15, 16, 19, 21-23, 25, 27, 28 and 39-53 are pending in the application. Claims 13, 16, 23, 28, 39, 43, and 48 have been amended. Each of the Examiner's rejections is addressed below.

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended in our telephone conversations of April 6 and April 10, 2007 with respect to the pending claims and the Office Action rejections.

Supplemental Reissue Declaration

Pursuant to MPEP 1444, applicant will submit a cumulative supplemental oath/declaration when the present application is in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

Claim 13 is objected to on the ground that the claim is not fully underlined. Claims 11 and 12 are also objected to since they depend from claim 13. This objection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 13 has been amended above, and is now believed to be in proper form. An indication to that effect is respectfully requested at this time.

Section 112

Claims 11-13, 15, 16, 19, 21-23, 25, 27, 28 and 39-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, on the grounds that the language reciting that a limited flow passes through the suction line when the valve is fully closed is indefinite, since a

“valve which is fully closed does not allow fluid to flow through.” This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully points out the claim language in question actually reads “fully closed position,” not merely “fully closed.” Applicant respectfully submits that the claim does not recite a condition or operating mode in which a valve is fully closed, as stated in the Office Action. Rather, as described in the specification at col. 1, lines 25-27; and col. 2, lines 38-48, the valve in its fully closed position permits a limited fluid flow. One skilled in the art would understand that a valve in a fully closed **position** could permit a limited fluid flow.

Accordingly, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Consequently, pending claims 1-3, 11-13, 15, 16, 19, 21-23, 25, 27, 28 and 39-53 are believed to be in form for allowance, and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested at this time. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Respectfully submitted,
Lifson, A.

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Dated

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